

more, and should the people demand more from us, regardless of which side we are on? We did not know all of the facts, and that bill would not have passed if we did know all of the facts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, I THINK NOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I watched the weekends events somewhat in horror, but also somewhat in recognition that our troops on the ground, our enlisted officers, Reservists and National Guard, operate under the most heinous conditions, and certainly the actions that we have seen in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners is not to be excused, but I lay the burden more on the policymakers and those who have extended the stays of those civilian troops, 6 months, 12 months and 18 months, those who made the statement a year ago May 1, "mission accomplished." The burdens of disarray of the military in Iraq lay at our feet.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we cannot, as a Congress, do nothing. I would hope that we will hear more potently from the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chief of Staff on the solutions in the aftermath and the crisis of a so-called mission accomplished.

Although those acts were to be not tolerated, we must find the trail of hierarchy that created such havoc that our soldiers who were there to liberate, have turned into those who would perpetrate such acts. That is what I want to speak about this evening: Mission accomplished, I think not. Until we pass what I am now calling, and we are now reviewing and hoping to write as legislation for this House, the Welcome Home Act of 2004. Mission accomplished, I think not. Until we write legislation for those combat veterans who have come home from Iraq and Afghanistan, really, the Vietnam War of the 21st century.

And what do I believe is appropriate for those wounded and those individ-

uals coming home from this war? First of all, an apology and explanation by this administration for the war and the present status of the conditions in Iraq and, yes, Afghanistan. Provisions for long-term mental health needs for those veterans, both wounded and those not wounded and their families; immediate treatment for trauma, mental trauma if you will, that will be ongoing and that we have already discovered in some of our military hospitals today; continuous educational opportunities for these young men and women, and maybe even the Reservists and the National Guard who now come home with a whole different attitude about life and their future; family counseling, so that the terrible murder of a military spouse of a returning veteran cannot happen again; enhanced opportunities for homeownership so our military families are not in cramped conditions after the military person leaves the particular branch and so they are not Nicole Goodwin, an Iraqi combat veteran who is now homeless, walking the streets of New York; health care for 10 years so that those ailments generated by the combat situation and the Veterans Hospital will not maintain and keep, we will have care; long-term health care and rehabilitation when the veteran's benefits run out; military whistleblower protections so that those individuals who have seen things in Iraq that should not happen, such as what happened in the prison and the abuse of prisoners or what is happening in terms of those individuals who are outside of their job description of which they were brought into the military, where carpenters are being police officers and truck drivers are being gunners, we need to find out what is wrong with this system and this war.

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Provisions for those who are severely injured with long-term understanding of those severely injured and the families who lost loved ones. Who is attending to those families after the burial? Who is comforting them, and what are the resources being provided for those families? And so I would suggest that a lump-sum payment under the Welcome Home Act of 2004 be made to those families of the severely injured and those who lost loved ones out of the profits of the Iraqi oil fields.

Mr. Speaker, mission accomplished, I think not, until the Welcome Home Act of 2004 is both legislatively presented to this Congress, until we acknowledge the wrongness of this war by giving some dignity to those who are coming home, who are coming home to lonely places, to homelessness, to bad health care, to the inability to provide for their family. We must provide for these severely injured veterans as well as those families who have lost loved ones because, as we know, the toll of those dying continues to rise; and 736, Mr. Speaker, is not the last count that we will have. How can we

claim a mission accomplished unless we present the Welcome Home Act of 2004 alongside a final resolution to the conflict in Iraq?

NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the President, as you can see from the poster, said at his press conference last week that he was not aware of any mistakes that he had made. Let me tell my colleagues and him a few mistakes he has made, three major mistakes:

First, in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the Bush administration chose deliberately to mislead the people of New York about the safety of the air and the environment in the aftermath of that disaster. We now know from the Inspector General of EPA's report that the White House instructed the EPA to mislead the people of New York. The former administrator of EPA, Mrs. Whitman, said 2 days after the disaster the air is safe to breathe, when they had no test data to show that.

Because of that misleading, Federal, State, and city government followed policies that have resulted in catastrophe. We now know from recent medical reports that an absolute majority, most of the first responders, the heroes, the fire officers, the police officers, the construction workers who descended on Lower Manhattan to help with the rescue operations, most of them now, 2½ years later, have serious respiratory disorders which will probably plague them for the rest of their lives. We know that women who live within a mile, 1.6 kilometers, of the World Trade Center, today are giving birth to low birth weight babies at twice the natural rate because the White House chose to mislead the American people.

Second, the White House chose to get us into a useless, stupid war in Iraq to divert our attention from the war against us by the Islamic terrorists. We know that there were no weapons of mass destruction, contrary to what they told us in Iraq, no great stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. We know the Iraqi people did not, as the White House told us they would, greet our troops as liberators. We know that when the President stood there before the sign and said mission accomplished and said that major combat was over, he was wrong. We know this administration did not plan adequately for an occupation. We know they sent too few troops there to properly secure the country. We know they fired General Shinseki because he had the impudence to say the truth in advance. We know that they disbanded the Iraqi army without having enough troop strength to replace it and they are now trying to reassemble it.

We know, in short, they got us into a quagmire and so thoroughly alienated